

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

Released: September 4, 2001, 1:00 p.m.

Published Weekly

CWP Vol 01 No 26



WASHINGTON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507

Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending September 2, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

Cereal Grain Harvests were Winding Down
Wineries were Expecting Grape Harvest a Week Earlier than Previous Years

FIELD CROPS

Warm, dry weather helped grain harvests progressed this past week with most operations finishing up winter wheat. Onion, potato, alfalfa seed and mint harvests continued. Moisture is needed for winter wheat seedlings to emerge. Christmas tree growers continued trimming Douglas firs and began to repair roads for tree harvest. Radish seed harvest was completed. Sweet corn harvest continued with some operations clipping the top 20 inches off of the corn stalk to keep corn fields standing for later harvest. Excellent dahlia sales were reported at the Olympia Farmer's Market. Tulip and daffodil fields were being prepared for planting.

LIVESTOCK

Scant showers across eastern Washington did little to ease dry conditions. Heavy rains on the western side of the state, the previous week, helped pastures green up. Livestock producers continued to battle the noxious weed, tansy ragwort. Dairy producers were spreading liquid manure on forage fields. Third cutting of alfalfa was winding down with few producers harvesting a fourth cutting. Winter forage supplies were scarce on the eastern side of the state due to the water shortage. Range and pasture conditions were 20% very poor, 45% poor, and 35% fair.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Gala apple and Bartlett pear harvests were underway with some areas wrapping up. Areas lacking irrigation found issues with size and sunburn. Wineries prepared for grape harvest, which is running about a week earlier than previous years. Other soft fruit, berry, and vegetable harvests continued. Excellent sales reported on hothouse tomatoes. U-Pick farms reported exceptional business on canning vegetables.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.8	5.8

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
Soil Type	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	30	55	15	-
Subsoil	20	65	15	-
Irrigation Water	5	10	85	-
Hay and Roughage	-	15	85	-

VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus

Crop/Activity	Crop Progress			
	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	93	70	93	88
Winter Wheat Harvested	98	95	100	96
Barley Harvested	92	65	94	88
Potatoes Harvested	26	23	32	25
Dry Peas Harvested	95	77	89	90
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	90	77	81	82
Dry Beans Harvested	15	10	19	15
Corn Harvested for Silage	15	4	21	15

Crop	Crop Condition *				
	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
Potatoes	-	-	10	90	-

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Clallam/Jefferson: Daytime temperatures were about normal and nighttime temperatures were a little below normal. Grass crops looked excellent. Corn looked good. Harvest is expected to begin about a week later than normal. Seed crops were doing good. There were no reports of damage from last week's heavy rain.

Snohomish/North King: Sweet corn harvest was picking up, with quality looking good. Grain harvest wound down, with excellent yields. Vegetables, berries, and flower harvests were in full swing. The weather was cooler than normal for several days. There were no reports of damage from last week's heavy rain.

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn topping was nearly complete. This is the process where the top 20 inches of the corn stalk is mechanically cut off, to prevent the corn stalks from blowing over in strong winds. Once blown over, the corn becomes impossible to harvest. Commercial dahlia growers reported excellent cut flower sales at the Olympia Farmer's Market. Tulip and

daffodil growers prepared fields for planting. Christmas tree growers started preparing roads for harvest time. Livestock producers continued pulling and spraying the noxious weed, tansy ragwort. Hothouse tomato growers reported excellent sales. Dairy producers continued spreading liquid manure on forage fields.

Pierce: The weather was good, with no unusual situations to report. The Pierce County FSA office received one report of crop damage from the heavy rain that fell during the week of August 22-23.

Thurston: Last week's rain has already had a positive impact on pastures, which were beginning to display a hint of green. Turfgrass producers continued cultivating fields in preparation for fall seeding. Cereal grain harvest was completed early in the week, with less than average yields reported due to dry growing conditions. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas fir trees. U-Pick vegetable farms reported high demand for canning vegetables.

CENTRAL

Benton: Hop harvest began. Wineries were gearing up to begin receiving grapes next week, at least a week ahead of average. Soft fruit, early apples, and summer vegetables were being harvested. The weather continued to remain dry and hot.

Chelan: Bartlett pear harvest was nearly over. Bosc and D'Anjou pear harvest got underway. The pear crop looked quite good. The Gala apple harvest was about half finished. Golden Delicious apple harvest will start in about a week. Harvest activity should remain at a high rate for the next six weeks and will last until early November. The weather conditions have been conducive to the proper maturation of the fruit.

Grant: Soft fruit harvest continued. Gala apple harvest was in full swing. Onion harvest progressed. Vegetable seed harvest continued. Radish seed harvest was complete. Alfalfa seed and mint harvests progressed. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was in progress.

Straw baling continued.

Kittitas: Sweet corn harvest continued. The second cutting of timothy hay was underway, in areas that had enough irrigation water. The third cutting of alfalfa progressed. Range conditions were stable. Irrigated pastures were drying up. Apple picking will begin soon.

Kittitas (2nd Report): Ranchers were searching for winter livestock feed with little success. Pastures were scarce due to no irrigation water. Corn was being harvested throughout the Kittitas Valley.

Yakima: Bartlett pear harvest wound down, while harvest of Gala apples hit it's peak. Growers were encountering problems with size and sunburn, especially in areas with limited access to irrigation. Overall, the quality of this year's crop was good.

EASTERN

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest neared completion, with only a few producers with crops left to cut. A few producers in the higher elevations were still waiting for some spring crops to ripen, before they could harvest them. Moisture was a big concern for planting winter wheat. Pasture and rangeland in many areas was still in poor condition.

Garfield (2nd Report): Harvest was complete. The seeding window is September 15 to October 10 for most of the county. Moisture is needed for emergence of seedlings and continued moisture is needed to take care of "dry band" conditions. It's time for the fall work to begin now that harvest is over in most places.

Lincoln: Warmer than normal temperatures, in the high 80's, enabled county farmers to progress with harvest. Some areas of the county completed harvest, while others were in full swing. Cloudy and breezy periods were reported this past week. There was also an unmeasurable amount of precipitation received.

Whitman: Dry conditions enabled harvest to reach completion in all but limited acreage on the eastern edge of the county. Dry conditions lead to severe limitations on late summer grazing. Supplemental feeding was in progress and many cattle producers were planning to wean calves early, in hopes of extending time on already depleted pastures.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

September 4, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	49	73	62	2	89	12	21	4	0.61	0.26	2	30.08	-6.29	83	151
Everett	53	75	64	4	103	22	33	11	0.03	-0.38	1	26.36	-10.37	72	148
Hoquiam	48	69	61	-2	77	-2	11	-10	0.22	-0.26	2	46.82	-21.48	69	172
Kelso	46	79	66	3	111	18	41	9	0.06	-0.37	1	20.95	-25.88	45	129
Olympia	42	79	64	3	98	17	31	10	0.03	-0.36	1	32.49	-18.42	64	145
Seattle-Tacoma	54	77	64	0	102	3	32	-1	0.03	-0.32	1	27.34	-10.08	73	135
Shelton	47	78	64	1	101	5	31	-2	0.13	-0.27	1	44.41	-20.86	68	152
Tacoma	48	77	65	2	105	12	35	8	0.00	-0.36	0	26.74	-13.77	66	136
Vancouver	51	83	68	6	129	34	59	29	0.00	-0.37	0	24.23	-17.34	58	146
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	38	89	68	5	130	27	64	23	0.00	-0.12	0	7.31	-1.68	81	74
Omak	50	93	73	10	164	66	94	55	0.00	-0.21	0	6.20	-8.94	41	68
Stampede Pass	41	71	57	4	49	10	2	-5	0.20	-0.40	1	55.78	-25.78	68	175
Wenatchee	52	90	74	5	165	27	95	25	0.00	-0.14	0	5.76	-2.61	69	69
Yakima AP	42	93	72	7	157	43	87	37	0.00	-0.14	0	5.08	-2.95	63	65
NORTHEAST															
Colville	48	95	71	9	149	58	79	44	0.00	-0.28	0	13.45	-7.90	63	83
Deer Park	41	90	66	2	115	10	46	1	0.00	-0.21	0	13.56	-5.07	73	118
Spokane AP	49	89	70	5	139	32	69	23	0.00	-0.21	0	10.53	-6.06	63	102
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	48	93	74	4	172	26	102	26	0.00	-0.07	0	5.32	-1.95	73	71
Moses Lake	46	93	73	3	161	15	91	15	0.00	-0.07	0	6.61	-0.66	91	67
Quincy	45	91	73	6	160	37	90	33	0.00	-0.13	0	5.19	-2.70	66	58
Ritzville	46	92	71	6	148	37	78	31	0.00	-0.12	0	10.39	-0.99	91	78
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	48	97	77	3	188	18	118	19	0.00	-0.11	0	6.24	-0.30	95	66
Pasco	44	96	72	2	158	15	88	13	0.00	-0.10	0	7.97	0.43	106	75
Pullman	43	87	65	3	108	14	38	-1	0.00	-0.21	0	13.19	-8.02	62	107
Walla Walla AP	51	93	75	5	178	30	108	29	0.00	-0.21	0	15.46	-4.13	79	96
Whitman Mission	46	95	72	6	155	36	85	32	0.00	-0.16	0	14.10	0.28	102	102
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	50	90	70	4	142	25	72	20	0.00	-0.30	0	16.86	-9.25	65	105
Lewiston ID	54	98	76	6	182	40	112	36	0.00	-0.21	0	11.85	-0.65	95	105

Summary based on NWS data.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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